

Bussard-Newman House
1311 35th Street, N.W.
(Georgetown)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-196

HABS,
DC,
GEO,
132-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. DC-196

BUSSARD-NEWMAN HOUSE

HABS,
DC,
GEO,
132-

Location: 1311 35th Street, N.W., (Georgetown) Washington, D.C.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy T. Morgan (1969).

Present Use: Private Residence (1969).

Significance: This is one of the earliest small frame free-standing houses in the western part of Georgetown. It illustrates the type of dwelling frequently occupied by artisans and proprietors of small business enterprises, structures that were larger than laborers' cottages, but less grand than the homes of the Georgetown gentry. The structure is one of several remaining on 35th street that were used as combination residence-shop buildings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1805-1808.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located in Square 1228, Lot 841 (formerly the northern part of Square 58, Lot 67 in Threlkeld's Addition to Georgetown). Its original address was 38 Fayette Street.

The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

1805 John Threlkeld et ux Elizabeth to Daniel Bussard.
Deed October 9, 1805. Recorded November 25, 1805.
Liber 0-14, folio 27

North half Lot 67--Consideration \$100

- 1828 Daniel Bussard et ux Catherine, David English, trustee, William Bussard et ux Catherine to Peter Hoover. Deed June 19, 1828. Recorded July 1, 1828. Liber W.B. 23, folio 38.
- Conveys whole of Lot 67--Consideration \$650 (Bussard purchased the south half of Lot 67 in 1808 for \$300).
- 1828 Peter Hoover et ux to David English. Trust June 19, 1828. Recorded July 1, 1828. Liber W.B. 23, folio 42.
- Trust to secure purchase money.
- 1840 Alexander Hunter, Marshall of D.C. Peter Hoover to Andrew Hoover. Deed March 27, 1840. Recorded September 4, 1840. Liber W.B. 78, folio 450.
- Recites that Andrew Hoover bought the property at auction, January 11, 1840, for \$1,002 "...to make damages and costs aforesaid out of the goods and chattels, lands and tenements of the said Peter Hoover being found in his bailwick...." Refers to Peter Hoover, "late of George Town in the District of Columbia, but now of Baltimore."
- 1840 Andrew Hoover et ux Sarah to William Noyes. Deed October 31, 1840. Recorded March 18, 1841. Liber W.B. 84, folio 445.
- 1841 David English, trustee to William Noyes. Deed March 24, 1841. Recorded March 25, 1841. Liber W.B. 93, folio 187.
- 1841 William Noyes et ux Mary to John Clements. Deed September 21, 1841. Recorded April 25, 1842. Liber W.B. 93, folio 230.
- 1847 John Clements, Edward M. Linthicum, Otho M. Linthicum to George S. Neill. Deed April 21, 1847. Recorded August 30, 1847. Liber W.B. 136, folio 262.

This and succeeding deeds concern only the northern part of Lot 67, "...upon which stands a two story frame house...including the free use of the well and pump in said Clements adjoining yard, provided the owner or occupier of the above granted premises shall contribute one half the expense toward keeping same in repair."

- 1851 George S. Neill et ux Sarah Ann to William S. Jones. Deed April 8, 1851. Recorded April 10, 1851. Liber JAS 23, folio 218.
- 1852 William S. Jones et ux Martha to Thomas A. Newman. Deed October 4, 1852. Recorded October 8, 1852. Liber JAS 46, folio 163.
- 1910 Thomas A. Murray, executor of Will of Celeno V. Newman to Samuel Artz. Deed June 18, 1910. Recorded June 18, 1910. Liber 3337, folio 235.
- Celeno V. Jessup Newman was the widow of Thomas A. Newman.
- 1920 Samuel Artz & wife, Emma J. to Ernest Allen, Catherine T. Allen, joint tenants. Deed July 1, 1920. Recorded August 10, 1920. Liber 4417, folio 151.
- 1940 Ernest Allen died December 20, 1940.
- 1942 Grafton L. Allen, unmarried, Ernest W. Allen & wife, Susie, Edwin P. Allen & wife, Dorothy, Eleanor R. Allen, Helen C. Allen Zimmerman, Catherine L. Allen Mann, Delores M. Allen McMahon, heirs of Ernest Allen to Lucien Warner & wife, Nayan tenants by the entirety. Deed July 27, 1942. Recorded November 17 1942. Liber 7811, folio 251.
- 1944 Lucien Warner & wife, Nayan tenants by the entirety to Charles Jesse Child & wife, Fredericka Boyles tenants by the entirety. Deed September 13, 1944. Recorded October 6, 1944. Liber 8201, folio 326.
- 1958 Charles Jesse Child & wife, Fredericka Boyles to LeRoy T. Morgan & wife, Carolyn D.M. tenants by the entirety. Deed January 23, 1958. Recorded February 7, 1958. Liber 10993, folio 499.

4. Original plan and construction: The first house built on this site was a single story frame house, described in the tax records of 1813.
5. Alterations and additions: The house was enlarged with the addition of a second story by 1847 when a deed described lot 67 "...upon which stands a two story frame house...". The windows on the second floor are not exactly in line with those on the first floor, further indicating that the second floor was added. Subsequent alterations consisted of remodelling the east (rear) elevation, the addition of aluminum siding on north and south elevations, enclosing the first and second floor porches at the southeast corner of the house, the addition of an elaborate front door frame and a rear dormer in the mid-twentieth century. The interior has been extensively remodelled by successive tenants, including the addition of two second floor baths, two bedrooms and bath in the attic, and remodelling of the staircase. Central heating was installed in 1920.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

John Threlkeld sold the north half of Lot 67 in Square 58 to Daniel Bussard in 1805. Bussard was a leading citizen of Georgetown and an entrepreneur in various fields. He owned considerable property and was active as a land developer and builder. He also owned and operated a brewery, a tannery, and a distillery. (Record Group 351, National Archives. Records of the City of Georgetown. Microcopy 605, Roll 9).

Bussard was a trustee of the Georgetown Presbyterian Church (Journal of the Trustees of Georgetown Presbyterian Church, 1809-1830). He was also active in civic affairs. In 1826 he was named to the committee applying to Congress for a charter to build a Poor House and later, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Poor Farm which was located at the corner of what is now Calvert Street and Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., where the Guy Mason home now stands. (Jackson, Vol. 7, p. 46). Bussard built the frame house on Fayette Street (now 35th Street) between 1805 and 1808. In 1805 he paid \$100 for the north half of Lot 67, a price indicating there was not a structure on the land at that time. In 1808 Bussard bought the south half of Lot 67 for \$300, a bargain since John French had paid \$500 for the same piece of property in 1806. The tax assessment records for the year 1808

assess Daniel Bussard for Lot 67, valuing the property at \$800 and listing it as "improved". (See also HABS No. DC-193). In 1813 the tax records were more specific, giving Bussard's Lot 67 a value of \$850 and listing "2 single story frames." (Record Group 351, National Archives, Records of the City of Georgetown. (1800-1879), Microcopy 605, Roll 8 (1808-1812); Roll 9 (1813-1818)).

In 1828 the frame houses were sold by the Bussard family to Peter Hoover. Hoover was a butcher, who probably lived in one of the houses and used the other as his shop. (City Directory).

In 1840 the houses were sold at public auction by the Marshall of D.C., as Peter Hoover had gone into debt and, taken into custody, was removed to Baltimore. Andrew Hoover purchased the property for \$1002 but sold it a few months later to William Noyes, who in turn sold it the next year to John Clements, a painter. In 1847, Clements sold the house on the north part of the lot (by then enlarged to two stories) and continued to occupy the house on the south part of the lot. After 1852, the house owned by Thomas A. Newman, a shoemaker, was used as a rental property for both residence and business establishments. George Battersby, a confectioner, rented the house and ran his confectionery there. When George died, his widow, Ann C. Battersby, continued the family business at this address. City directories list Ann at 38 Fayette Street through 1863. Again, in 1866, a confectioner, Mrs. Susanna Darnes, is listed at this location. Research has not revealed whether the house was rented and used for running a confectionery business during the remaining years of Newman ownership. Samuel Artz, a plumber who had a business at 3028 M Street and lived on N Street, bought the house in 1910 and rented it to Ernest A. Allen, who was living in the house two years prior to Artz's purchase. (City Directories, 1834-1910). Allen operated the Aqueduct Photo Shop at 3507 M Street and later worked for the Washington Gas Company. After renting the little frame house for twelve years, Allen and his wife purchased it. (Conversation with Mr. Edwin P. Allen).

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Conversation with Mr. Edwin P. Allen (son of Ernest Allen),
925 North Potomac Street, Arlington, Virginia, 1968.

Journal of the Trustees of Georgetown Presbyterian Church,
1809-1830.

Record Group 351, National Archives, Records of the City of
Georgetown (1800-1879): Assessment of Real and Personal
Property, Microcopy 605, Roll 8 (1808-1812), Roll 9
(1813-1818).

2. Secondary and published sources:

City Directories:

For 1834 A Full Directory for Washington City, Georgetown and
Alexandria, p. 10.

The Washington and Georgetown Directory, 1853, p. 74.

Ten Eyck's Washington and Georgetown Directory, 1855, p. 3,
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Boyd's Washington and Georgetown Directory, 1860, p. 162;
1862, p. 138; 1865, p. 390; 1866, p. 409.

Hutchinson's Washington and Georgetown Directory, 1863, p.
220.

Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia, 1876, p. 406;
1883, p. 573, 1887, p. 578.

Boyd's District of Columbia Directory, 1906, p. 863; 1907, p.
922; 1910, pp. 212, 228.

Jackson, Cordelia, "John Barnes, A Forgotten Philanthropist
of Georgetown", Records of the Columbia Historical Society.
Washington, D.C.: The Society, Vol. 7, 1904, p. 46.

Prepared by Volunteers for the
Commission of Fine Arts
Washington, D.C.
1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This modest wooden frame house with a three-bay shiplap-sided front maintains much of its original character despite alterations to the interior and rear part of the building.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. Much of the original fabric has been replaced.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Two-and-one-half stories with full basement, approximately 21 feet by 35 feet with a three-bay front.
2. Foundations: The foundation is slightly exposed at the front. The land slopes off leaving the basement fully exposed at the rear (east) elevation. Visible foundation materials include both brick and stone. On the west (front) elevation there is a hatchway that has been filled in.
3. Wall construction and finish: Heavy rough-hewn wood frame with pegged joints (according to former owner). West (front) elevation has wood shiplap siding with vertical corner boards. The north and south elevations have new aluminum horizontal siding.
4. Porches: Wooden porches at the southeast corner of the house at the first and second floor levels are now enclosed. There is a plastic roofed aluminum framed sun porch at the basement level at the rear of the house.
5. Chimneys: There is one brick chimney in the middle of the north wall with fireplaces in the basement (originally the kitchen), first and second floors.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The west (front) doorway has both a wood panelled door and wood door frame with a broken pediment and fluted pilasters, which appear to be mid-twentieth century additions.

- b. Windows and shutters: Windows are six-over-six-light double hung sash with plain wood trim. The two-panelled louvered shutters are probably not original. The second floor windows are slightly out of line with the first floor openings.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Medium pitched gable with ridge running parallel to the street (north-south). The roof covering is asphalt shingles.
- b. Framing: Rough hewn wood frame (according to former owner).
- c. Cornice, eaves: The cornice is a simple wood projection with attached metal gutter and downspout.
- d. Cupolas, dormers, and towers: There is one dormer over the center bay of the west elevation with one six-over-six-light double-hung sash window. The window has a low arched head and a pedimented cornice with a broken horizontal cornice band crowning the dormer. A large dormer with access to a rear roof deck on the east roof slope was added in the mid-twentieth century.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: The entire interior has been remodelled by successive owners.
 - a. First floor: Side hall plan with front and rear rooms what were originally a parlor (front) and a dining room.
 - b. Second floor: One front and two rear bedrooms with two baths added.
 - c. Attic: The remodelled top floor has a front bedroom with dormer, a back bedroom with large modern dormer and access to the rear roof deck, and a bath at the southeast corner.
 - d. Basement: The basement is entered from a stair at the southwest corner of the first floor and from the rear yard. It was originally used as a kitchen.

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2. Stairways: There is a wooden stairway at the southwest corner of the house cantilevered from the south wall. Corner winder stairs occur at the southwest corner of the second floor and basement runs, while the first floor stair is a straight run. The stairway has been remodelled several times as evidenced by damaged newel posts. Both the newel posts and the balusters are turned wood, and three different newel posts are present. Additional simple decoration is provided by quarter-circle-cut wooden ornament along the string.
3. Flooring: The two upper floors have random width wide wood flooring running north-south. The first floor has narrow width wood flooring running east-west. Floor construction, visible for the second floor, is single plank floor boards on 8 inch joists.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Both are plastered. Walls have flat wood baseboards.
5. Doorways and doors: Simple wood panel doors with simple wood trim.
6. Hardware: There is a variety of early and mid-twentieth century hardware.
7. Mechanical Equipment:
 - a. Heating: Central heating with individual room radiator units was installed ca. 1920. Fireplace treatment dates from the mid-twentieth century.
 - b. Lighting: There is a variety of twentieth century fixtures.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The house is on the east side of 35th Street between N and O Streets. It is set back approximately 14 feet from the curb. The south wall of the structure is located approximately 125 feet from the center line of N Street, measured along 35th Street.
2. Landscaping: There is a stone and brick paved yard at the rear, fenced by a wooden enclosure six feet high. There is a wooden picket fence painted white approximately eight feet from the west facade, and a red brick walk running from the sidewalk to the front door.

3. Outbuildings: There is an old stable at the east end of the lot which has been remodelled with additions as a guest house.

Prepared by: William P. Thompson
Architect
Historic American
Buildings Survey
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of a project to record structures in the western part of the Georgetown Historic District in Washington, D.C. The project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selections Number 6, "Georgetown Architecture-Northwest Washington, District of Columbia." Research for the project was conducted by volunteers under the supervision of Ms. Nancy Black, staff member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Architectural information was prepared by William P. Thompson, Architect. Photographs were taken by J. Alexander. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by HABS architectural historian Emily J. Harris in 1979.